

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8168

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KE, TZ

SUBJECT: TANZANIA APOLOGIZES FOR TREATMENT OF KENYAN OFFICIALS

1. TANZANIA FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN MALECELA ON MAY 14

EXPRESSED TO A PRESS CONFERENCE TANZANIA'S "SINCERE APOLOGIES" FOR THE HARASSMENT OF TWO KENYA OFFICIALS AT TANZANIA'S KILIMANJARO AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT PUBLISHED IN THE KENYA PRESS, THE TWO OFFICERS WERE RETURNING TO KENYA ON MAY 9 FROM AN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA, WHEN AIRPORT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND POLICE STRIPPED THEM AND SEARCHED ALL THEIR BELONGINGS INCLUDING KENYA GOVERNMENT FILES. MALECELA ASKED KENYA TO CONSIDER THE AFFAIR AS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT NOT AFFECTING KENYAN-TANZANIAN FRIENDSHIP, AND PROMISED THAT IT WOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND THAT, IF THE FACTS WARRANTED, THOSE INVOLVED WOULD BE PUNISHED. THE APOLOGY WAS GIVEN VIA THE PRESS, MALECELA SAID, BECAUSE THAT WAS THE MEDIUM IN WHICH KENYA HAD RAISED THE MATTER.

2. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS ON MAY 5 EDITORIALY CASTIGATED THE KENYAN DAILY NATION, WHICH HAD HEADLINED THE HARASSMENT CHARGE, FOR TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA, AND RECALLED THE ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF TANZANIAN IN KENYA TWO

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YEARS AGO. "PERHAPS THE TIME HAS NOW COME," DAILY

NEWS SAID, "FOR PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO
SERIOUSLY ASK: HOW MUCH MORE IMMORAL CAN SOME NEWS
MEDIA GET BEFORE THEY REALIZE THAT THEY ARE TAMED
WICKED INSTRUMENTS OF AFRICA'S ENEMIES? HOW
MUCH LONGER CAN WE TOLERATE THESE AGENTS PROVOCATEURS?"
EDITORIAL WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT NO ENEMY EFFORTS
COULD AFFECT THE FUNDAMENTAL BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN THE
KENYAN AND TANZANIAN PEOPLES.

""EDITORIAL ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT DAILY NEWS OWN
FIRST REPORT OF THIS INCIDENT HAD LEFT WRONG IMPRESSION,
IN THAT IT APPEARED TO CONDONE OFFICIALS ACTION.
CARTER

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